

August 13, 2016

## **Two weeks after damaging storm, merchants, residents continue Ellicott City cleanup efforts**

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Two weeks removed from the storm that extensively damaged Ellicott City's Main Street area, hundreds of residents, merchants and building owners returned for another cleanup day.

Workers will have a chance to return again to the historic town tomorrow, Sunday, Aug. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive. Those assisting with the cleanup will be transported to Main Street locations by bus.

All must be credentialed and be at least 18 years of age (or 16 years old and accompanied by a parent or guardian) to gain access to the cleanup site. Those still in need of credentials may acquire them starting at 8 a.m. The cleanup days are intended to allow residents and merchants to remove trash and debris, but not retrieve items from their properties at this time.

"Every day, we continue to make progress," said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. "Each day is another step along the road to rebuilding Ellicott City."

Throughout the day, those taking part in the cleanup were encouraged to take 10 minute breaks every half an hour to rehydrate and cool off at one of four cooling stations set up along Main Street.

With similar weather conditions expected Sunday, the Howard County Health Department continues to recommend that anyone with moderate to severe respiratory disease consult a healthcare provider before participating in cleanup efforts. The department suggests frequent handwashing or use of a hand sanitizer as the best way of fighting germs, especially before handling food or any other hand-to-mouth behavior.

If you plan to visit the site, it's recommended you wear solid, closed-toe footwear (preferably an over-the-ankle work boot or hiking boot), long-sleeved shirts and pants, goggles, non-porous and protective gloves and a flashlight. Also, consider using N95 respirator masks for exposure to mold-contamination or other hazards.

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Because the heat index is again expected to climb to 105 degrees or higher, workers are encouraged to take plenty of breaks, use cooling stations and drink plenty of water. The drinking water in Ellicott City meets all federal and state standards, but should be run through faucets for 15 minutes before use.

As was done Saturday, two medical tents staffed with nurses from the Howard County Health Department and Howard County General Hospital will be in operation Sunday.

For more information about this weekend or other items related to the Ellicott City recovery, visit our new website, [www.ECfloodrecovery.org](http://www.ECfloodrecovery.org).

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